



Wyoming Department of Education

PRESS RELEASE

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2009 Wyoming NAEP Math scores to be released

Cheyenne – Wyoming’s performance in mathematics on the 2009 National Assessment of Educational Progress, known as “The Nation’s Report Card” or NAEP, will be released on Oct. 14 at 8 a.m. MST. The results and various visual graphics representing the results will be available on the Wyoming Department of Education website.

Wyoming State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Jim McBride, will be traveling during the release and will be available on a limited basis. If you would like to schedule an interview with Dr. McBride on the 14th please contact Tim Lockwood at 307-777-6386.

NAEP plays an integral role within the nation’s No Child Left Behind legislation. Statewide testing of mathematics is scheduled and administered to Wyoming students every two years. A key purpose of NAEP under No Child Left Behind is to serve as an external reference point in viewing a state’s academic testing programs, e.g., the Proficiency Assessment for Wyoming Students or PAWS.

NAEP has traditionally provided a point of comparison when considering PAWS results in reading and mathematics, as well as PAWS testing in other academic areas such as writing and science.

NAEP is distinctive in its design and purpose compared to PAWS testing. The PAWS assesses each student in the same skill areas using the same test questions. This allows Wyoming teachers to track student growth and make instructional “next steps” decisions for each individual student.

By contrast, NAEP employs a matrix sampling procedure, e.g., each student sees only a portion of the overall NAEP mathematics test; some students are tested in NAEP mathematics, while others assessed in NAEP reading or science.

Another unique characteristic of NAEP is it only provides results at a state and national level. There are no results at a district or school level. Because NAEP testing employs matrix sampling and each student only sees a portion of the test, all results are rolled up to the state level.

Overall NAEP is a relatively low stakes assessment because it provides reporting at the state-level only, whereas PAWS—by contrast—is used for school building and district-level accountability outcomes and decisions.

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Because NAEP testing is required for all states under the No Child Left Behind legislation, it offers a very rigorous and valid metric for making comparisons between Wyoming and other states regarding state educational performance.

One issue that continually comes up is the disparity between the definitions of proficient on NAEP and proficient on state assessments. Guidance produced by the United States Department of Education, which administers NAEP, stipulates that, for comparison to NAEP, states should compare basic to the state assessment's proficient for relation of student achievement. For more information on that guidance, view the NAGB guidance at www.k12.wy.us/SA/NAEP/2007/NAEP_Guidance.pdf.

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